U.S. PATENT APPLICATION No. 10/659,786 AMENDMENT A

Attorney Docket: DKT02118

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraphs [0019] and [0020] of the application as follows:

[0019] In a distance defined by spacers spacer sleeves 31 arranged on the nozzle ring around the central axis R, a fastening ring or disk 29 is provided which abuts to is attached to the turbine housing 2 in the region of a housing flange 2b best seen in Fig. 1. The fastening disk ring 29 is fastened to the nozzle ring 6 by way of bolts 30, indicated by dotted lines, which extend are, for example, through spacers traversing sleeves 31, the spacers sleeves 31 providing a somewhat larger space than would correspond to the width of the vanes 7 in axial direction, as is known, in order not to impede their pivoting movement at all temperature ranges. In this way, the guiding grid as shown in Fig. 2 can readily be pre-assembled to be inserted into the turbine housing 2.

[0020] In order to be able to insert the module thus created into the turbine housing 2 in a quick and precise way, it is connected to a sleeve 45 insertable into the central axial pipe 10 and having a central opening 53 so that this sleeve, in principle, needs only to be inserted into this discharge pipe 10. To facilitate this, the sleeve 45 has at least one driver flange or driven element or follower 46 which engages and brings with it drives the disk 29, and thus preferably the whole guiding grid module, when being inserted into the discharge pipe

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10, thus determining the axial position of the module. If in this context the term "at least one driver flange" 46 is used, it should be understood that it would be possible to provide a plurality of driver flange-like claws or projections protruding in radial direction, particularly distributed in equal angular distances. However, it is preferred, if, as shown in Fig. 2, the driver member is formed as a driver flange 46 which extends in radial direction from the sleeve and grasps behind the disk 29 at the side of the vanes and the vane space, although it would, in principle, also be possible to have radially interengaging projections and recesses of the disk 29 and the sleeve 45.

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IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend abstract as follows:

A guiding grid of variable geometry comprises a plurality of guiding vanes in a housing in angular distances around a central axis in an axially extending vane space of a predetermined axial distance. Each vane is pivotal about an associated pivoting axis to assume different angles in relation to the central axis and, thus, to form a nozzle of variable cross-section between each pair of adjacent vanes. A nozzle ring supports the vanes around the central axis and forms a first axial limitation of the vane space. A unison ring is displaceable relative to the nozzle ring and is connected to the vanes to pivot them. There are means, such as an An annular disk is [[,]] fixed to the housing and facing faces the nozzle ring in an axial distance to form a second axial limitation of the vane space and a central opening. Into this opening, a sleeve may be inserted. arrangement determines the axial position of the annular disk with respect to the housing.